

HB359

Save Women's Sports

Del. Kathy Szeliga

Kathy Szeliga

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What does the bill do?

- ❖ HB 359 ensures that girls who qualify for high school JV and Varsity girls' sports are competing against other biological girls.
- ❖ HB 359 is about protecting girls' opportunities for success in competitive sports. There must be fairness and safety in sports for girls to hold state records, qualify for collegiate scholarships, and find success.

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Why do we need the bill?

Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination is based on sex – male and female. It does not sanction males, with distinct physiological advantages regardless of treatment, to compete in female sports.

We must recognize sex in order to ensure equal opportunity and fair competition.

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A high-profile case in point is the University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas who ranked in the mid-400s nationally while competing for 3 years in men's swimming.

In one season self-identifying as a woman, Thomas:

- rewrote record books
- won Ivy League Conference Woman of the Meet
- became NCAA women's 500 freestyle champion
- nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

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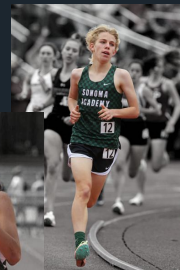
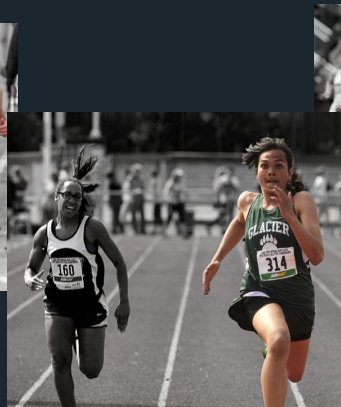
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HS Girls Losing Awards Across the Country



High School Girl's Track & Field:

- Girls lost state titles & records for 4 consecutive years to 2 trans identifying males in CT



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Safety Should Always Take Priority



Attack

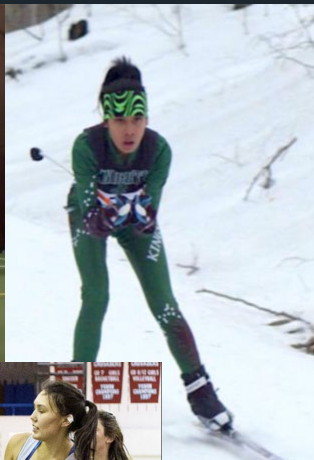


Certain sports have to prioritize not only fairness but **SAFETY** as a top concern

- Currently there are high school male athletes like this 6'5" player spiking over girls volleyball nets **7" shorter** than the regulation men's net
- Game cancellations have already occurred involving another male player in NC due to severe head injury to an opposing female player

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What does the science say?

“Biological sex is the single most important determinant of athletic performance that is known.” ~ Dr. Ross Tucker, PhD in Physiology

Male advantage ranges from 10% (distance running) to 160% (punching).

Sex in humans is binary and immutable - male and female.

Every human body develops around the formation of large or small gametes (sperm or ova), whether or not they are ever produced. There is no way to reverse, reboot or undo the pathways of development.

Sex matters in sport for women to be recognized as champions and for their equal opportunity.

Male bodies have larger hearts and lungs, significantly heavier bone density and a different skeletal structure. Science tells us they have bigger bones and muscle capacity, larger feet and hands. To deny these facts is to deny science.

How is this bill different from last year?

The bill simply limits eligibility for girls JV and Varsity high school sports to biological girls.

No other leagues are required to be sex specific.

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What this bill does NOT say

“This bans trans kids from playing sports”

NO ONE is excluded from participation in sports!

The way we include everyone is by dividing sport eligibility categories: age groups, weight class, disability status, and SEX are ways we ensure equal opportunity to all.

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Common Argument

“Women’s sport is about participation not winning”

No one would ever tell a Varsity boys basketball player that his athletic pursuits are not about winning. Women athletes deserve equal respect to strive to be champions.

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Girls Must Be Treated Fairly

"This fight is about whether women deserve to be treated fairly or not. Because if we don't deserve to be treated fairly, even in the one place where fairness is supposed to be ensured and upheld, what hope do we have everywhere else where women are being treated poorly and people make excuses like that's our place and we just need to learn how to take it?"

Lauren Bondly

US NATIONAL TEAM TRIATHLON

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Why pass HB 359 NOW?

The United States has made great strides in promoting women's athletics since Title IX **revolutionized women's sports over 50 years ago**. Ignoring sex will set women's rights back half a century.

We must renew our dedication to the **fight against injustice** in the women's sports category today. Requiring girls to not only risk their safety but also surrender their opportunities and rewards to biological boys strips girls of their **pride, potential, and achievements**.

***18 other states** have enacted similar legislation into law already

Please vote favorable on HB359 for Maryland's girls because every young woman deserves the opportunity to not only participate in their own sports but also to win.

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